

February 15, 1973

Blessed Nell,

I was so sorry to miss your call last week. I had to go teach a million seminars at Bellarmine in Louisville, and then went for five days to Gethsemani and did not get back here until Friday of last week. Then I had to dash to Houston to photograph an important new development in tracheostomy techniques, which I did on Sunday and Monday, got back here Monday evening, dead on my feet, got into my pajamas and to bed when I got a call that my old friend, Dick Gregory, was here. So I got up and got dressed and we spent the evening together - going first to his lecture, which was magnificent. He is more and more like Ghandi, and one of the most deeply impressive men I know. Then we got in around midnight, and I have spent the rest of the time getting the photos processed and printed for the American Journal of Nursing. Piedy has gone now to mail all that ; and I have turned back to the book, with some typing to be done tomorrow. So this has been almost the busiest and most skull-cracking time of my life. In L'vill I gave about thirty five lectures, two press conferences, two Education TV shows, and by the end of it all I wasn't even sure of my name, much less anything else. I would have come right on home but my great friend, Father Tarcisius (who has been in the monastery since he was 16-(is now 42) had to have surgery on his eye, and I waited, went in to the hospital with him, and remained until after the surgery so I could call and report to his mother. It went well and he is recuperating nicely, thank God.

Father George is also doing very well, though his injured leg is still almost twice as large as the other one - but he is up and about on the doctors' orders and the fractured ankle is apparently healing very well. He was over for a moment earlier this afternoon.

Well, blessed Nell, this better be all for the moment. Everyone here is fine. I am holding up very well and managing to work pretty long days now, thank the Lord.. I have finished up an informal and personal history of the civil rights movement over the last 12 years, and a highly detailed piece dealing with the release of the klanman in Mississippi who murdered Vernon Dahmer - a notorious cynicism on the governor's part (he was Wilson's defense attorney before getting elected governor) since he had no legal right whatsoever to release Wilson; and this has caused terrible uneasiness among Mississippi black people.

In great haste to get this in the mail. Best, best love to you from all of us here,

